



# County of San Diego

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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### **Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians' Committee January, 2013**

**The winter flu and illness season** is beginning. The number of influenza detections is rising, although not more than expected this time of year. California is still not seeing the influenza season other states are experiencing. Over the last week or two we have seen a large number of respiratory illnesses with fever. Emergency departments have been busy and hospitals report high in-patient census.

Influenza vaccine is still available for those who did not get vaccinated to this point. Hospitals should use the Capacity Plan and their own protocols to deal with high volumes. In some cases they may need to ask Licensing and Certification for regulatory flexibility to help deal with high volumes.

**The California Emergency Medical Services Authority** held its California EMS Awards ceremony in San Francisco after the December 5<sup>th</sup> EMS Commission meeting. A number of EMS personnel from San Diego were honored. Border Patrol agent **Travis Creteau** received an inter-service recognition medal for his rescue of two children in a car submerged in a lake. **Rick Rod** of Rural Metro received a meritorious service medal for his training and publications, and disaster experience. **Gordon Anderson**, an AMR dispatcher, was honored for his community outreach programs including graffiti removal, oil changes for seniors, and CPR instruction. **Reema Makani Boccia** of Rural Metro was honored for community outreach and creative initiatives.

Additional Clinical Excellence Awards will be presented at the individuals' workplace. Recipients include **Andrew Kelly, Dustin Slikker, Garret Estevane, Jason Van Zile, Joe Taylor, Leanna Navarro, and Ryan Judson.**

**Sporadic drug shortages** continue to appear. Most recently we have seen shortages of prefill atropine. Vials may have to be used instead. We would like to avoid multidose vials to avoid dose or sterility errors. New Morphine Carpujects from Hospira are not licensed for intramuscular use. Options include using the Carpuject only for IV use, or switching to vials from another manufacturer.

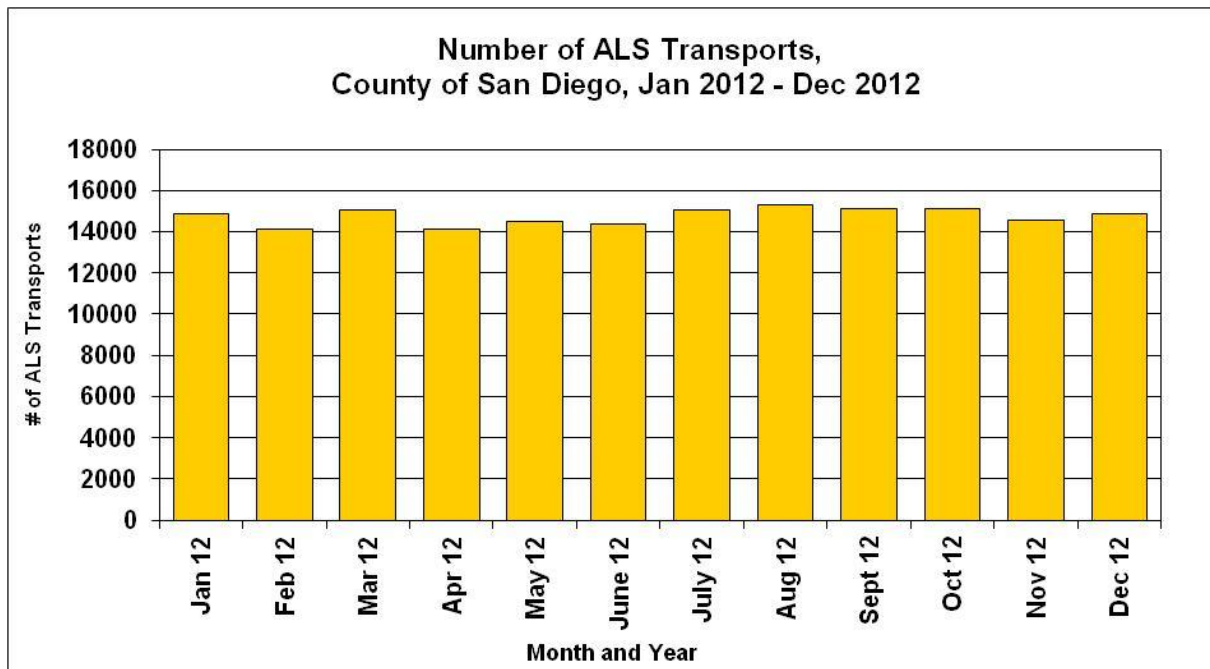
**Congratulations to UCSD Hillcrest** Medical Center, recognized as one of five initial Comprehensive Stroke Centers by the Joint Commission. Comprehensive Stroke Centers will be a resource in our stroke care system, especially with the new stroke system regulations issued for comment by state EMSA.

**State EMSA has funded** three Advanced Emergency Medical Technician training programs in the state, one of which is located in San Diego. The focus is on law enforcement and tactical medicine.

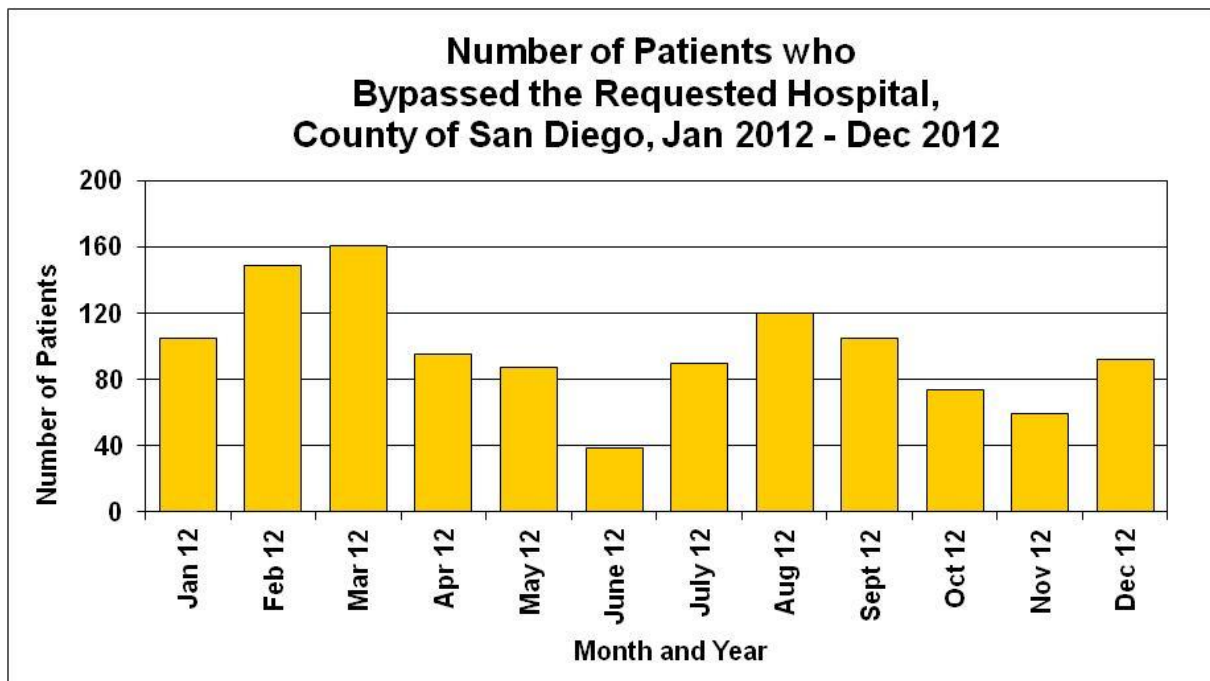
**If you have any suggested changes** based on experience with the POLST (Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment) form, please let us know. The POLST provides more information and important guidance for patient treatment.

**Please try to remove your backboards** and other equipment from hospitals as soon as possible. They have limited storage space.

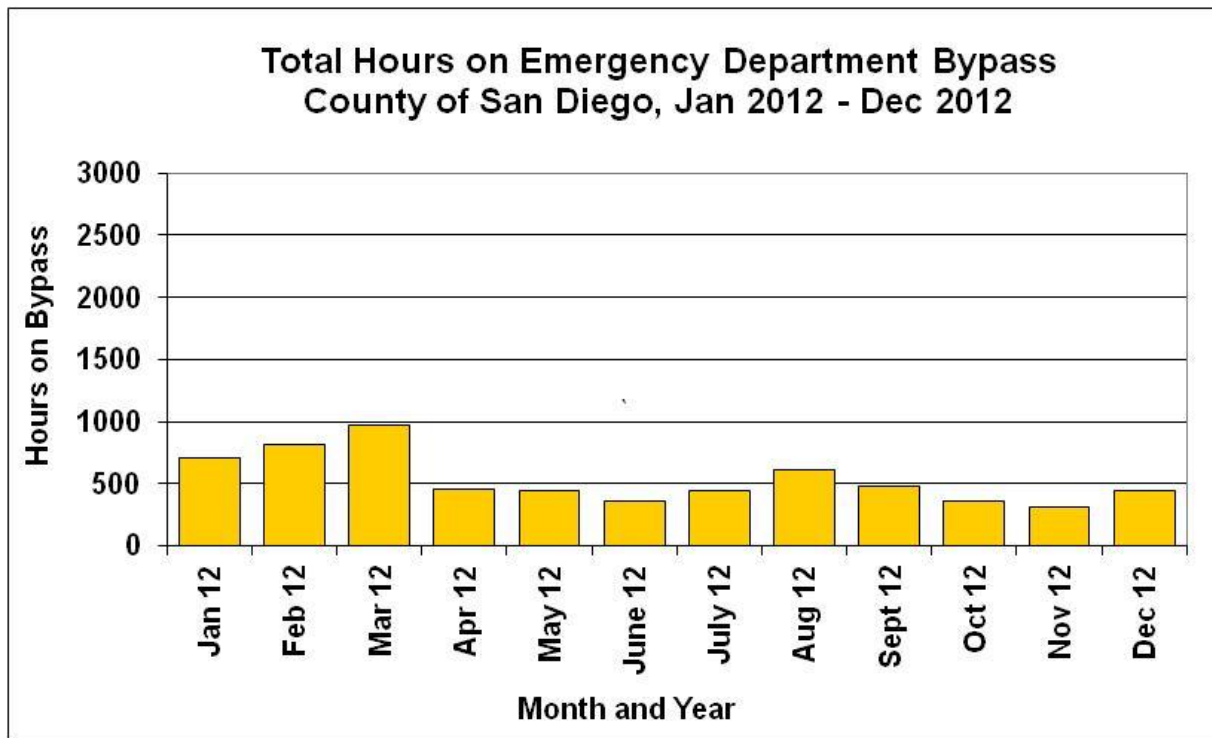
**I have mentioned before that EMOC**, the Emergency Medicine Oversight Commission of the Medical Society, is working on guidelines for dispensing narcotics in emergency departments. The guidelines would recommend not replacing stolen or lost prescriptions, prescribing missed methadone doses, prescribing long-acting narcotics, or prescribing pain medication if the patient is already receiving it from another physician. Signs are under development for use in EDs, along with patient agreement contracts. Representatives from all EDs will meet to evaluate the program and their support will be sought.



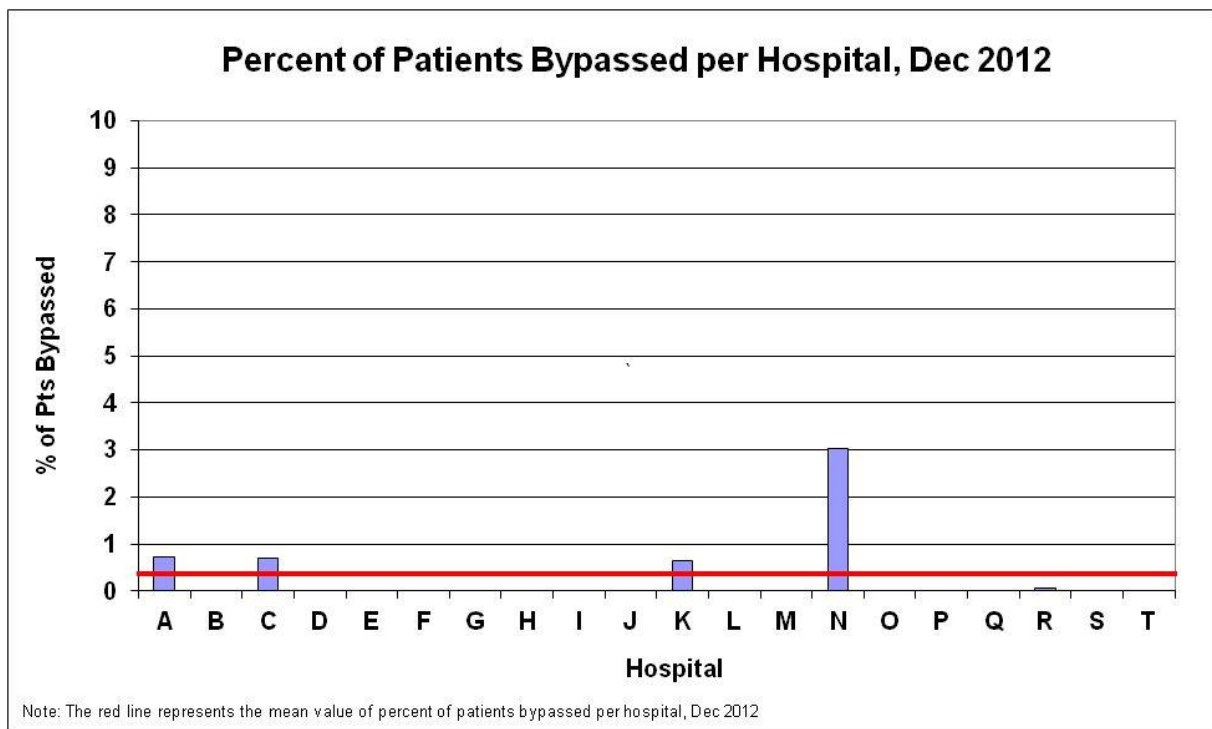
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2012 – Dec 2012 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



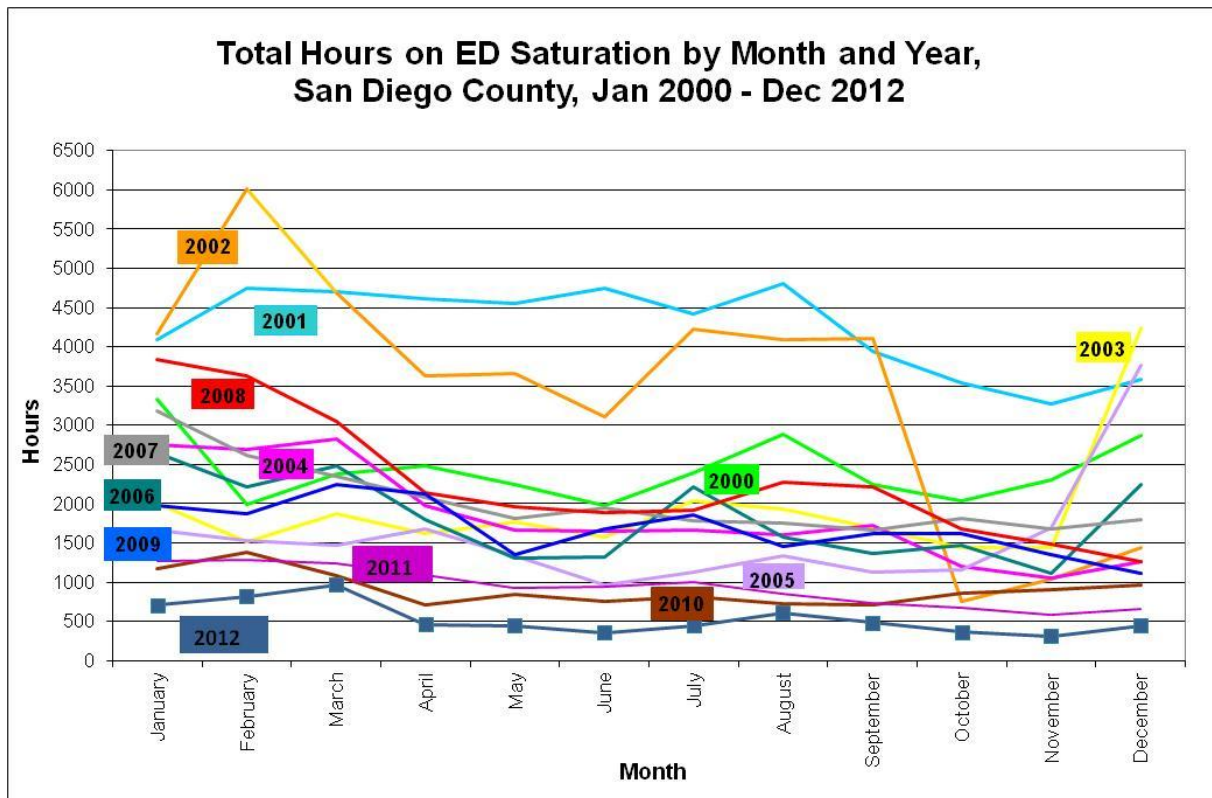
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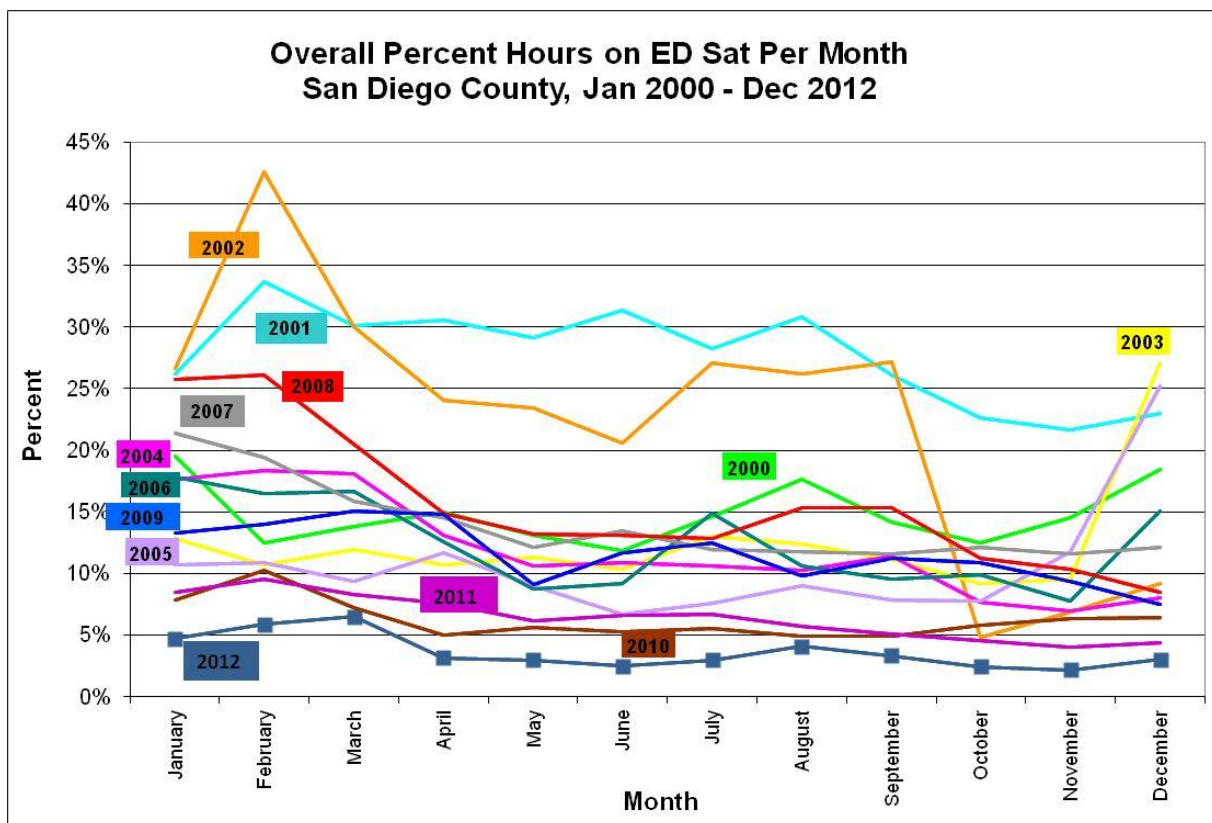
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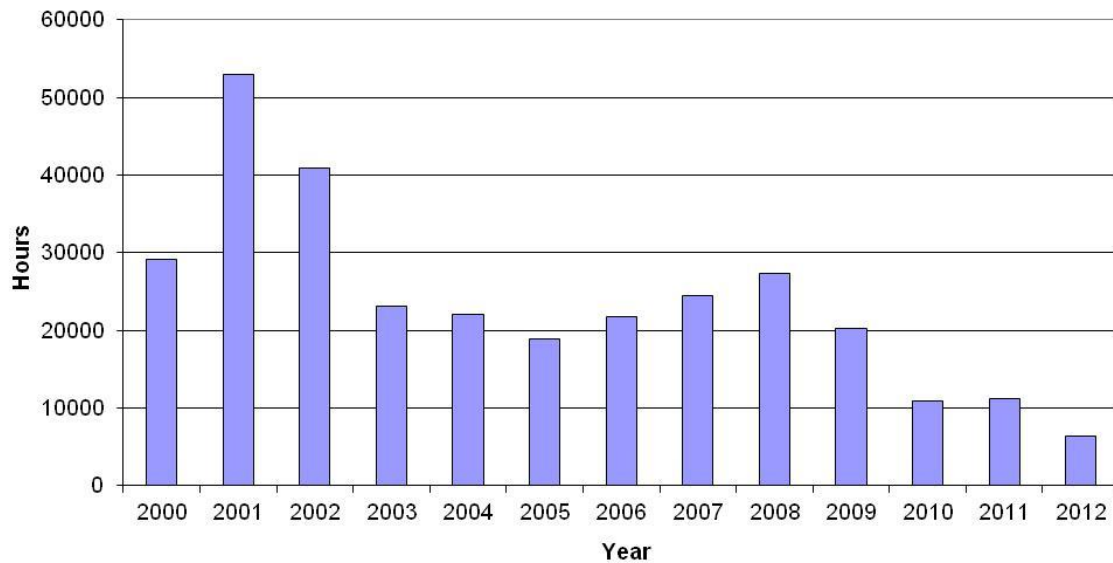


Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 – Dec 2012



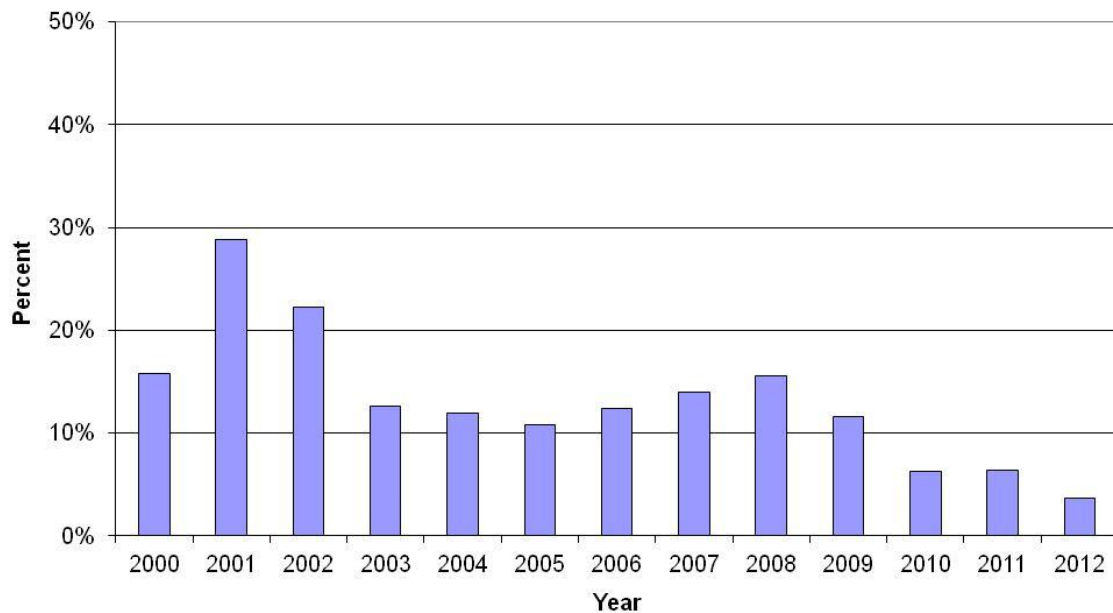
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 –Dec 2012

### Total Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2012



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2012

### Overall Percent Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2012



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2012